

Name _____

Figurative Language

Figurative language is a tool that an author uses, to help the reader visualize, or see, what is happening in a story or poem.

Types of Figurative Language

Simile is a comparison using like or as. It usually compares two unlike objects.

Example: His *feet* are as big as *boats*. Feet and boats are being compared.

Metaphor states that one thing *is* something else. It is a comparison, but does NOT use like or as to make the comparison.

Example: Her *hair* is *silk*. Hair and silk are being compared.

PERSONIFICATION IS GIVING HUMAN QUALITIES, FEELINGS, ACTIONS, OR CHARACTERISTICS TO INANIMATE (NOT LIVING) OBJECTS.

Example: The house stared at me with looming eyes. The verb, stared, is a human action. A house is a non-living object. Therefore, we have a good example of personification.

Example: The ancient car groaned into first gear. The verb, _____, is a human action. A _____ is a non-living thing.

Onomatopoeia is the imitation of natural sounds in word form. These words help us form mental pictures, or visualize, things, people, or places that are described. Sometimes a word names a thing or action by copying the sound.

Example: Bong! Hiss Buzz!

Symbolism occurs when one thing stands for or represents something else.

Example: The dove symbolizes peace.

HYPERBOLE IS INTENTIONALLY EXAGGERATED FIGURES OF SPEECH.

Example: It was raining cats and dogs.

Imagery involves one or more of your five senses - the abilities to hear, taste, touch, smell, and see. An author uses a word or phrase to stimulate your memory of those senses and to help create mental pictures.

Idioms An expression that means something other than the literal meanings of its individual words. They are overused expressions.

Simile or Metaphor

Decide whether each sentence contains a simile or a metaphor. If it is a simile, write SIMILE and underline the two things being compared. If it is a metaphor, write METAPHOR and underline what is being compared. If the thing that the metaphor is being compared to is not written in the sentence then write what it is being compared to below.

1. The giant's steps were thunder as he ran toward Jack.

METAPHOR

2. The pillow was a cloud when I put my head upon it.

3. The bar of soap was a slippery eel during the dog's bath.

4. I felt like a cheetah when I ran the race.

SIMILE

5. Those boys are like two peas in a pod.

6. The Porsche crouched before the race, growling in anticipation.

METAPHOR - compares the Porsche to a big cat

7. Veronica lured him into her web.

Write your own simile.

Write your own metaphor.
